

# **News**

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 10, 2006

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## **Macomb County surveys businesses on health care plan**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Nearly 2,400 small businesses across Macomb County are being surveyed to find out if they want to participate in a subsidized health care program beginning Oct. 1.

Under the program that would be offered through Macomb Health Plan (MHP), the health plan premium will be shared equally by the employer, the employee and MHP. Blue Care Network is the health care provider that MHP will use for this plan.

The plan is for businesses operating for at least six months that have fewer than 200 employees – half of which must make \$12 per hour or less. The plan is for full-time employees, or part-time employees who work more than 20 hours per week. The company must not have offered health benefits to employees within the previous year.

“Nearly all of the companies doing business in Macomb County have less than 200 employees and many can’t afford to provide health insurance,” said Nancy White, chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

Blue Care Network coverage includes doctor visits, prescription drugs, emergency room services, radiology, diagnostics, pre-approved visits with specialists, and inpatient hospital services.

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The Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development sent out surveys this week to 2,400 small businesses to gauge their interest in the new plan.

The deadline for the survey is Aug. 31. Any business returning a survey by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for four tickets and a parking pass to see the Detroit Tigers play the Kansas City Royals at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Comerica Park.

“We’ve taken the opportunity in the survey to ask a few questions about how their business is doing, why they located in Macomb County and whether we can offer other services to them,” said Steve Cassin, executive director of Planning & Economic Development. “We’ll have a better picture of the county’s economy and find out how much interest there is the MHP health care program. We know the need is there.”

According to a 2003 study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, only 77 percent of the 4 million people in Michigan’s private sector are offered health care through their employers. The study also shows the number of Michigan businesses that provide health care has decreased by about 5 percent since 1998.

For more information about the survey, contact the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development at 586-469-5285.

### **About Macomb Health Plan**

Roseville-based Macomb Health Plan, originally known as County Health Plan, is a non-profit corporation created in 2004 to provide health care coverage to low-income Macomb County residents. The plan for small businesses would be its third product.

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